



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon
District of North Dakota

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**North Dakota U.S. Attorney's Office Announces \$3.7 Million
in Collections and \$4.6 Million in Forfeitures in Fiscal Year 2010**

BISMARCK - United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon announced today that, according to statistics from the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota collected \$3.7 million in civil and criminal collections and recorded \$4.6 million in civil and criminal asset forfeitures in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. These recoveries in North Dakota come in a year when United States Attorney's Offices nationwide reached an all time high in financial collections of \$6.68 billion during the government's fiscal year.

U.S. Attorney Purdon stated, "U.S. Attorney's Offices nationwide offer a good return on the taxpayer's dollar. North Dakota's U.S. Attorney's Office is no different. The men and women of this office assure that, in

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addition to prison time, those convicted of federal crimes in North Dakota are forced to give up their illegal profits and return any taxpayer dollars that have been taken by fraud. We take our obligation to protect the public purse seriously and work hard to see that "Justice" in a given case includes "Justice" for the American taxpayer."

U.S. Attorney Purdon also stated, "I would like to recognize the efforts of the North Dakota U.S. Attorney's Office Civil Chief Shon Hastings, Asset Forfeiture Coordinator Nick Chase, and the Assistant U.S. Attorneys, paralegals and legal assistants who achieved these results. They are all dedicated public servants and the people of North Dakota and the United States of America are well served by their hard work and professionalism."

The U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the country are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. Statistics from the Department of Justice indicate that the total amount collected in criminal actions in FY 2010 totaled \$2.84 billion in restitution, criminal fines, and

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felony assessments. The law requires defendants to pay restitution to victims of certain crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss.

While restitution is paid directly to the victim, criminal fines and felony assessments are paid to DOJ's Crime Victims' Fund, which distributes the funds to state victim compensation and victim assistance programs.

The statistics also indicate that \$3.84 billion was collected in civil actions. The largest civil collections were from affirmative civil enforcement cases, in which the United States recovered government money lost to fraud or other misconduct or collected fines imposed on individuals and/or corporations for violations of federal health, safety, civil rights or environmental laws. In addition, civil debts were collected on behalf of several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Internal Revenue Service, and Small Business Administration.

Additionally, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices contributed to the collection of \$1.8 billion in asset forfeiture actions in FY 2010. Forfeited assets are deposited into either the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund or the

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Department of Treasury Forfeiture Fund and are used to restore funds to crime victims and for a variety of law enforcement purposes.

The nationwide collection totals for FY 2010 represent nearly a 30 percent increase in criminal collections and 57 percent increase in civil collections over FY 2009. In FY 2009, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices contributed to the collection of more than \$4.6 billion. Of the amount collected, \$2.23 billion was collected criminally, and \$2.44 billion was collected civilly. The significant increase in collections was due to various large criminal restitution cases as well as large health care fraud cases.

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